

Fort Sheridan Infantry Barracks
(Building No. 48)
Leonard Wood Avenue
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-17

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/17-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

FORT SHERIDAN, INFANTRY BARRACKS (Building No. 48).

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/17-

Location: Leonard Wood Avenue south of the parade ground.
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 16. 432900. 4673870.

Present Owner
and Occupant: United States Army.

Present Use: Administration.

Significance: The Infantry Barracks together with the Water Tower (Building No. 49) to which it is connected and a similar building (Building No. 50) which is joined to the opposite side of the Tower form an impressive complex over 1000 feet long. These buildings, among the first to be constructed on the post, dominate the southern side of the parade grounds and serve as the post's best known landmark. Building No. 48 was designed by Holabird and Roche as Infantry Barracks and Headquarters. It was later used as Artillery Barracks and had a machine gun room in the basement. In 1967 the building became the headquarters of the Fifth Army. Today it is used as offices by several of the tenant groups at Fort Sheridan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1890.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: John A. Reichelt and Company, Chicago.
5. Original plan and construction: The building is a long, rectangular block with three projecting wings in the front, two in the rear, and a short connecting wing on the east which joins the adjacent Water Tower. It is constructed of buff-cream brick. The main roof is hipped with the ridge running east-west. The entrances are in the long sides. The building was constructed to hold 481 men and the infantry headquarters.

6. Alterations and additions: The seven cupolas which were originally on the ridge of the roof have been removed. Many of the doors and windows have been modified. In the 1930s and 1940s interior alterations allowed more of the area to be utilized as office space. In 1967 the entire building was remodeled to house the Fifth Army Headquarters.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Center for Cartographic and Architectural Archives, Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Reproduced plans and elevations, 1888.

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams St., Chicago, Illinois. 60606. Plans and elevations, n.d. Drawings are water damaged.

2. Old views:

Mackern, H. G. Fort Sheridan: At Attention and Rest, Chicago, H. G. Mackern, 1897. n.p.

Views of Fort Sheridan, ca. 1897, Record Group 92, Audio Visual Archives, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Reference Nos. 92-F-61A-12, 92-F-61A-13.

3. Bibliography:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915 and Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, Record Group 92. National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A long building, one of two flanking the central Water Tower. The massive complex is reminiscent of European military edifices. Cut vertically by fire walls with raked parapets and pierced by rows of arched windows the building displays the Richardsonian Romanesque characteristics of the other Holabird and Roche designs for Fort Sheridan.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is two-and-one-half stories high with a full basement. The main rectangular block measures 463'-3" by 42'-9", with 56 bays across the facade. There are three projecting wings on the facade, one on each end and one in the center. The wings on the ends are five bays across, the one in the center is six bays. There are two projecting wings on the rear, one at each end. The east rear wing is four bays across, the west rear wing is six bays. A connecting wing between the Barracks and the Water Tower measures 20' by 20'-3".
2. Foundations: Random ashlar limestone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Buff-cream brick laid in common bond with four rows of stretchers to one of headers.

Five fire walls with raked parapets with terra cotta coping cut across the building vertically. Each of the walls is marked by corbeled brackets with stone caps. On the facade between the windows on the first and second stories double rows of projecting and recessed headers followed by two solid rows of projecting stretchers form the decorative brick trim. On the central projecting wing on the facade and on the rear projecting wings, the decorative trim is concentrated between the second story windows. Three rows of projecting stretchers are followed by a row of projecting and recessed headers. On the main building the second story windows are connected by a single row of projecting headers running just below the arches.

4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall. Wood trussed rafter roof.

5. Porches: A two-story reinforced concrete porch resting on concrete piers stretches between the projecting wings in the rear. The floors are concrete over wood frames. There is no roof above the second floor level of the porch. Four sets of concrete stairs with metal railing provide access to the first level. Three metal stairways lead to the first and second floor levels.
6. Chimneys: There is a brick chimney on the ridge of the roof at each of the five fire walls. There is a sixth chimney also of brick on the roof north of the ridge on the eastern end of the building.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The original entrances have been considerably modified. At the present there are seven glass doors in metal frames at the first floor level on the facade. They are reached by concrete stairs with metal railings. Signs in the transoms above the doors are formed by two sheets of plastic. One has the letters in white; the second sheet is green and provides background for the lettering.

Beginning at the Water Tower on the east the first door is single with a flat, gauged brick arch at some distance above it. The area surrounding the door is filled in with pink-red brick indicating that originally there was a larger entrance.

The second entrance is a double door. The sign in the transom reads:

Commanding General, United States Army Recruiting Command
There is a plain, concrete frame surrounding the entrance. On each side of the stairway there are low brick walls built of yellow-orange brick with concrete platforms. On these platforms sit matching bronze cannons resting on stone bases. On each side of the door are cast iron flag holders, one on the left and two on the right. A metal plaque on the front brick wall to the side of the steps reads:

Headquarters, Fifth United States Army
Relocated from Chicago to Fort Sheridan, Illinois
May 19, 1967
Lieutenant General J. M. Michaelis, Commander

The third entrance has a recessed double door with the sign in the transom reading:

United States Army Recruiting Command

The fourth and fifth entrances have double doors and are inset in porches in the corner of the central projecting wing. The signs in the transoms read:

United States Army Recruiting Command

The porch entrances have stone lintels. There is a side window to each porch with a flat, gauged brick arch, a stone sill and a stone lintel dividing the window horizontally approximately two-thirds of the way up. There are wood rather than metal railings on the stairs leading up to the fifth entrance.

The sixth entrance has a double door and is recessed with a stone lintel above the outer entrance and a sign reading:

Headquarters, United States Army Readiness Region V

The seventh door is set in a porch in the corner of the end projecting wing. It is similar to doors four and five. Two cast iron flag holders flank the entrance. The sign above the outer entrance reads:

Commanding General, United States Army, Readiness Region V

There is a single glass door at the basement level. It is located next to the Tower and has a concrete stairway leading down to it.

The doors at the rear have been considerably modified. The present doors are metal, often with glass panels. On the first story level there are four single doors and five double doors. On the second story level there are eight single doors, most of which appear to be adapted from windows. Rounded, gauged brick arches similar to those above the second floor windows remain above the doors, but the tympanums have been infilled with pink-red brick.

- b. Windows: The basement and first story windows have segmental arched, flat topped, brick lintels. Some of the basement windows have light wells. The windows on the second story are topped by rounded, gauged brick arches. The stone sills of the first and second story windows are connected by a projecting course of stretchers which runs between windows. Some of the windows have been infilled with pink-red brick.

The windows are one-over-one double hung sash. Some of them have been covered with bars. The wood frames have been painted a peach color.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The main hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The projecting wings on the facade and on the rear also have hipped roofs. The roof line is broken by the raked parapets of five fire walls, each with corbeled brick brackets, stone caps and terra cotta coping.
- b. Cornice, eaves: A denticulated course of alternate recessed and projecting brick-on-edge forms a cornice. Overhanging eaves have soffits painted a peach color.
- c. Dormers: Nine shed roof dormers on the facade and eleven on the rear have two narrow windows. Some of the windows are glazed with two lights; the others are louvered. Roofs and siding of dormers are copper.

C. Description of Interior:

The interior has been remodeled into offices and none of the original fabric is identifiable except in the roof structure. In the connecting wing between the Barracks and the Water Tower two large sections of rockfaced limestone which form a part of the Tower are visible. They have been painted white.

The remodeled offices have linoleum tile floors, plaster board walls painted off white and light green, and ceilings of acoustical tile. Indoor plumbing, steam heat and electricity were installed in 1909.

D. Site:

The building is part of a complex consisting of two Barracks buildings and the central Water Tower. These buildings dominate the southern side of the parade ground and are opposite the Officers' Open Mess which is north of the grounds. The ridge of the roof runs east-west and entrances are in the long sides. Immediately south of the complex are six company kitchens and the Fire House, Mess Hall and Infantry Drill Hall. In front of the easternmost section of the facade the ground has been covered with concrete and brick forming a base for a cannon. A similar base is located on the other side of the Water Tower in front of Building No. 50. Low lying shrubbery is planted around the building. Trees edge the parade grounds to the north.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian, and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.

ADDENDUM TO
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Fort Sheridan Historic District
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013